

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. J. RES. 166

To designate the week of May 29, 1994, through June 4, 1994, as “Pediatric and Adolescent AIDS Awareness Week”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 7 (legislative day, FEBRUARY 22), 1994

Mr. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. METZENBAUM) introduced the following joint resolution; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

To designate the week of May 29, 1994, through June 4, 1994, as “Pediatric and Adolescent AIDS Awareness Week”.

Whereas more than 339,250 individuals in the United States have been diagnosed with acquired immune deficiency syndrome (commonly known as AIDS) and 204,390 have died from the disease;

Whereas the Public Health Service has estimated that there are currently between 1,000,000 and 1,500,000 persons in the United States infected with AIDS;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported 4,906 cases of pediatric AIDS and 1,412 cases of adolescent AIDS as of October 1993;

Whereas 1 in 5 of all reported AIDS cases is diagnosed in the 20–29 year old age group, and the median incubation

period between human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection and AIDS diagnosis is nearly 10 years, most of those people in their 20's who are diagnosed with AIDS were adolescents when they became infected;

Whereas AIDS was the eighth leading cause of death for children aged 1–4 in 1990; if the incidence of AIDS continues to increase, within the next 10 years AIDS may become the fifth leading cause of death among children of all ages in the United States;

Whereas by the end of 1995, maternal deaths caused by the HIV/AIDS epidemic will have orphaned an estimated 24,600 children (under age 13) and 21,000 adolescents (aged 13–17) in the United States; unless the course of the epidemic changes dramatically, by the year 2000 the overall number of motherless children and adolescents will exceed 80,000;

Whereas in 1992 reported AIDS cases among women continued to grow at a faster rate than among men, and for the first time, more than half the number of women's cases were the result of heterosexual transmission, not intravenous drug use;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that approximately 110,000 women in the United States are infected with HIV; an estimated 6,000 are expected to give birth to children each year; approximately 1,500–2,000 of these children will be infected with HIV;

Whereas more than 88 percent of children with AIDS have a parent with, or at risk for, HIV infection;

Whereas 24 percent of reported pediatric AIDS cases in the United States have occurred in New York City and the

South Bronx has the highest HIV seroprevalence rate among newborns in the United States;

Whereas Philadelphia ranks among American cities most impacted by reported AIDS cases among children age 0–13, and these children belong to an estimated 1,400 HIV affected families;

Whereas 74 percent of women with AIDS and 79 percent of children with AIDS are African-American or Hispanic, many of whom are underprivileged and have experienced social discrimination;

Whereas there have been 1,183 cases of pediatric AIDS reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in New York City; 260 cases in Miami, Florida; 184 cases in Newark, New Jersey; 168 cases in San Juan, Puerto Rico; 146 cases in Los Angeles, California; 138 cases in Washington, DC; 107 cases in West Palm Beach, Florida; 117 cases in Boston, Massachusetts; 125 cases in Chicago, Illinois; 113 cases in Baltimore, Maryland; 87 cases in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and 87 cases in Houston, Texas;

Whereas instances of discrimination against children and youth with HIV occur in schools and other institutions;

Whereas it is important that the people of the United States diligently seek preventative measures and better solutions to care for women and youth, including helping them gain access to HIV and other sexually transmitted disease clinical therapies;

Whereas early intervention and educational resources must be made available to all citizens, especially youth and other high-risk groups, to make them more aware of AIDS and

the risk associated with engaging in unprotected sexual activity or substance abuse;

Whereas the Health Care Financing Administration and the Public Health Service should work with appropriate State officials to help design optimal care packages needed for children, youth and families with AIDS or HIV infection especially as health care reform is undertaken; and

Whereas States and localities should recognize relative, extended family members and other nonbiological relations as an appropriate source of foster care for children with AIDS whose parents can no longer care for them, subject to the same review and afforded the same benefits as other foster parents: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
 3 That May 29 through June 4, 1994, is designated as “Pe-
 4 diatric and Adolescent AIDS Awareness Week”, and the
 5 President is authorized and requested to issue a proclama-
 6 tion calling upon the people of the United States to ob-
 7 serve the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

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